

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A motorized seat belt retractor comprising:
a motor having a motor shaft;
a load limiter for controlling the tensile load on a webbing withdrawn in the event of emergency; wherein the load limiter is configured to utilize a force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to thereby control the tensile load on the webbing;
wherein the load limit is controlled using a variable resistor located in series with the motor in an electrical circuit configured to carry a driving current to the motor.
2. (currently amended): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein the ~~resistance value of the resistor may be changed to thereby~~ variable resistor is configured to control a counter electromotive force on the motor shaft and the tensile load on the webbing.
3. (original): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein said load limiter includes a mechanism for transferring the force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to the webbing.
4. (currently amended): ~~The motorized~~ A motorized seat belt retractor ~~of claim 1, comprising:~~
a motor having a motor shaft;
a load limiter for controlling the tensile load on a webbing withdrawn in the event of emergency; wherein the load limiter is configured to utilize a force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to thereby control the tensile load on the webbing;
wherein the load limit is controlled using a resistor located in series with the motor in an electrical circuit configured to carry a driving current to the motor, and
wherein said load limiter is configured to control the tensile load on the webbing by alternatively placing the motor in a short-circuit and non-short-circuit condition according to a predetermined sequence.

5. (original): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 4, further comprising an electrical controller configured to establish the predetermined sequence.

6. (original): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 3, wherein said mechanism comprises a gear train which couples the shaft of the motor to a spool on which the webbing is wound.

7. (original): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 3, wherein said mechanism includes a locking mechanism to prevent the motor shaft from rotating in a direction corresponding to the webbing being withdrawn.

8. (currently amended): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein the load limiter is configured to increase the force generated by the motor at a rate ~~determined~~ based on the weight of a vehicle occupant.

9. (currently amended): The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 8, wherein the ~~control device~~ load limiter comprises is an electrical controller.

10. (original): The retractor of claim 9, wherein the load limiter only utilizes the force generated by the motor.